

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this Patent Application, particularly in view of the above Amendment and the following remarks. No additional fee is required for this Amendment as the number of independent claims has not changed, and the total number of claims is not more than originally filed. A Petition for a one month extension of time and the Petition fee are enclosed.

Request for Telephone Interview

Applicant kindly requests the Examiner to contact the undersigned at (847) 490-1400 to schedule a telephone interview, to discuss the merits of this Patent Application.

Amendment

The Specification, Abstract and Claims have been amended in accordance with the Office Action's requirements, thereby rendering these objections moot. A Substitute Specification and a marked copy showing changes made are enclosed herewith. Claims 6-16 have been placed back into the original method format. Claims 20-30 also have been amended into a method format. No new matter has been added to the claims by this Amendment.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 1 had been amended to recite a plane greater than a thickness, thereby rendering this rejection moot.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-30 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Russian Patent No. 2178313. The Russian '313 Patent does not disclose a flake having the dimensions of the claimed invention. As stated in the Specification, the '313 Patent discloses a prototype, but this did not have the dimensions of this claimed invention. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-30 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Kutushov, U.S. Patent 5,980,479. The Kutushov Patent also does not disclose the flake dimensions of this claimed invention. As the Kutushov Patent discloses "particles" and does not disclose or suggest the dimensions of the recited flake, the Kutushov Patent does not disclose or suggest the claimed invention. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Norblom, U.S. Patent 3,419,901. Claim 1 recites a coating, thereby rendering this rejection moot.

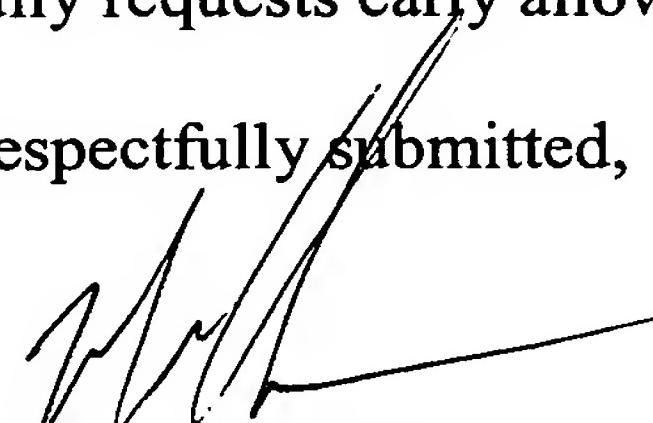
Based Upon: PCT/RU2004/000366

Conclusion

Applicant intends to be fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action. If the Examiner detects any issue which the Examiner believes Applicant has not addressed or resolved in this response, the undersigned attorney again requests a telephone interview with the Examiner.

Applicant sincerely believes that this Patent Application is now in condition for allowance and, thus, respectfully requests early allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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